Don’t throw valuable building materials in the landfill! New guidance for salvaging is here

Army installations are required by the Department of Defense Measure of Merit (MoM) to reduce non-hazardous solid waste by 40%. The construction and demolition (C&D) component is 67% of the Army’s solid waste Army wide, although C&D debris is over 80& of some installations’ solid waste stream. Therefore, reducing the C&D debris burden is critical to achieving the DoD MoM.

Wood salvaged from a deconstructed warehouse at Fort Carson, Colorado.

A newly published Public Works Technical Bulletin (PWTB) provides Army installations and Corps of Engineers Districts with procedures, information, and resources that will enable them to plan and manage building removal projects applying alternative strategies to conventional building demolition and landfilling. The materials that result from construction, demolition or deconstruction, and remodeling have many potential applications. Depending on the condition and types of materials, many of these materials can be donated or sold for reuse. Other materials may be recycled into new products. These materials also may be used as feedstock for new materials instead of using virgin sources. PWTB 200-1-26, “Market Valuation of Demolition Salvage Materials,” will serve as a reference for those responsible for reducing C&D debris burdens.

Public Works personnel and Corps project managers must be familiar enough with the used materials and recycling markets to establish reasonable debris diversion requirements and to evaluate C&D Waste Management Plans developed by building removal contractors. This PWTB can help installations achieve diversion goals by identifying market sources for reusable and recyclable materials generated from construction and/or demolition projects.

The new PWTB describes the most commonly salvaged, reused, and recycled construction materials and demolition waste, end uses for these materials, approximate market values for salvaged and recycled materials, options for marketing materials, and resources for developing local market data.

PWTB 200-1-26 is posted on the TECHINFO website at http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil/techinfo/CPW/pwtb.htm. Malcolm McLeod at HQUSACE Environmental Division was the technical proponent for this work. For more information, please contact Stephen Cosper at the Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL), 217-373-5569, Stephen.D.Cosper@erdc.usace.army.mil.